



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

January 11, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan is prepared by Deidre Lake and Kathleen Hall, Communication4Integration Inc.

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NEWSCAST 1:

ALBERTA MEN TICKETED MORE FOR DISTRACTED DRIVING COMPARED TO WOMEN



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/distracted-driving-men-women-alberta-tickets-1.3392127>

WARM UP

Have you ever used your cell phone while driving? Have you seen others texting while driving? Have you witnessed dangerous driving due to the driver using their phone while driving? What do you think of the distracted driving law and penalties? Discuss these questions with a colleague or friend.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the definitions of the words below before listening to the newscast.

convictions	a formal declaration that someone is guilty of a criminal offense
fiscal year	a period that a company uses for accounting purposes
snapshot	a quick picture; a quick view
tendency	an inclination toward a particular characteristic or type of behaviour
factors	circumstances; facts; influences
average	a number expressing the central or typical value in a set of data
curriculum	the subjects comprising a course of study
Impaired driving	driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
device	a piece of mechanical or electronic equipment made for a particular purpose
devote	to give or spend a large part of time to a person, activity, or cause
distractions	Something that prevents someone from giving full attention to something else

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the first newscast for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Now listen to the newscast for a second time. Fill in the blanks with the word that you hear.

Of the _____ distracted driving convictions in the last _____ year, 65.5 per cent involved male drivers, according to data from Alberta Transportation. That works out to 11.1 _____ per 1,000 licensed male drivers compared to a rate of 6.5 for female drivers.

Doug King, a justice studies professor at Mount Royal University who worked _____ as a research analyst with the Calgary Police Service, says the numbers present an interesting “_____” but don’t say that one gender has a _____ to drive while distracted than the other. Additional _____ need to be considered such as “Does the average male driver in Alberta drive more than the average female driver?” said King.

Krista Whelen, an instructor at Chinook Driving Academy in Calgary, said the _____ heavily stresses the dangers of _____ driving and devotes more classroom time to that topic than _____ driving.

While Alberta's legislation allows officers to ticket drivers for a wide variety of distractions, _____ per cent of convictions were for using a mobile phone or other type of electronic _____ while behind the wheel.

(See answer key)

LANGUAGE FOCUS ACTIVITY

Look at how the expressions below are used above.

- according to
- compared to
- a rate of
- more than
- a wide variety of

NEWSCAST 2:

TRANSCANADA IS FILING LAWSUIT AGAINST THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/transcanada-lawsuit-keystone-xl-pipeline-1.3392446>

WARM UP

Have you heard of the Keystone Pipeline Project? What is it?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the words below. If you do not understand the meaning of these words, look up their definitions.

proposed	claim	against	closely	tantrum
private	recover	rejection	made	decision

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Now try to fill in the blanks with the words listed above.

TransCanada has filed a lawsuit _____ the Obama administration and plans to file a _____ under the North American Free Trade Agreement over the U.S. government's _____ of the company's proposed Keystone XL pipeline. The firm says it will be looking to _____ \$15 billion US in costs and damages under NAFTA.

The Alberta government issued a statement saying that this is a _____ sector decision made by TransCanada and one that the government will be watching closely.

Legal authorities say this _____ go on for years before a decision is made. Opponents say the Calgary-based company is “throwing the corporate equivalent of a temper _____”.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the second newscast. Verify if the words you inserted in the blanks above are correct.

(See answer key)

POST ACTIVITY

The Keystone Pipeline Project has been a debate for years. With a partner or on your own, use the internet to discover what has been said by others with regards to the project’s advantages and disadvantages. Write down the sources you used for the points you list.

PROS	CONS

Based on the information you discussed and/or found, discuss with your colleagues or friends whether or not you agree with President Obama’s rejection of the Keystone Pipeline Project.

NEWSCAST 3: INCREASE IN LICENSE PLATE THEFT



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/drivers-licence-plates-stolen-1.3392373>

WARM UP

Describe what you think the woman in the photograph above is doing. Look up new vocabulary if needed to describe her activity.

Newscast 3 refers to:	Example
license plate plate plates	

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Before listening to the newscast, you should become familiar with some police and crime terminology (vocabulary).

Instructions: Study the explanations of the police and crime terms in the table below. The table includes terms you will hear in newscast 3.

Term	Definition	Synonyms	Slang
staff sergeant (noun-person)	a senior supervising police officer	Officer	sarg cop
thefts (noun-events)	when something that belongs to someone else is taken and kept	robberies burglaries	holdups muggings
thief (noun-person)	a person who steals another's property without using violence	robber burglar shoplifter	crook bandit pickpocket

steal (verb) stolen (verb- past participle of steal)	take someone's property without permission or legal right and without intending to return it	rob take	lift pick pocket pinch nick
stolen (adjective)	something taken without permission	taken pinched robbed lifted	pinched lifted five-finger discounted
offender (noun- person)	a person who commits an illegal act	criminal lawbreaker felon	crooks gangster outlaw
offence (noun-event)	an action that is against the law	crime criminal act felony wrongdoing	

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Complete the following sentences with words from the left side of the table above. Do not use the same word more than once. Underline the word or words in the sentence that help you to choose the correct answer.

1. The criminals were lined up so that the witness could identify the _____.
2. The artwork was pinched. There were several _____ paintings.
3. There had been many burglaries in the neighbourhood. The neighbours were worried about all of the _____.
4. He had committed two felonies before. This was his third _____.
5. He did pick pockets, but he did not ever _____ credit cards.
6. The crook was seen taking the money, so the police were able to arrest the _____ quickly.

(see answer key)

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 3

Instructions: Study the words and their synonyms in the table below. Circle the synonyms that you understand.

WORDS	SYNONYMS
spike	growth/ upsurge
skyrocketed	rise steeply/ shoot up/ increase rapidly; or very quickly
jump	rise /growth
consistent	steady /regular/ unchanging
vehicles	cars /trucks /vans
have in mind	determine /decide/ choose
plethora	excess/ surplus/ too many
swapping	changing /trading /substituting

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Listen to newscast 3. Put a checkmark ✓ next to the words below when you hear them.

WORDS	✓	WORDS	✓
spike		vehicles* or vehicle *	
skyrocketed		have in mind	
jump		plethora	
consistent		swapping	

*you will hear this word several times

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 4

Instructions: Fill in the blanks with words from the table above.

Calgary police are warning drivers to make sure they have their own plate on the back of their _____ because of a recent _____ in vehicle license plate thefts.

Police say plate thefts have _____ by more than 80 per cent in 2015 compared to 2014. Staff Sgt, Kristie Verheul says the _____ in plate thefts is _____ with an increase in stolen _____.

She says, "Often what will happen is offenders will steal a vehicle, or have a vehicle that they are going to steal in mind, and then go and steal a _____ of plates to go on it so they can keep _____ the plates in order to drive that _____ longer. " Verheul is in charge of the economic crimes unit.

Now listen to newscast 3 again to see if your words above are correct. (See answer key)

LANGUAGE FOCUS: SAYING A LARGE NUMBER

We say large numbers by listing the numbers in order of size, biggest first. When reading a single number, all the number labels should be singular, for example 10,400 is *ten thousand four hundred* and **not** *ten thousands four hundreds*.

We describe three digit numbers in hundreds, then tens. Generally, in British English we usually connect large numbers with double or single digit figures with *and*, but in American English *and* is not used. Note that hundreds, thousands and millions are not connected to each other with *and*, though.

For example:

- 345 is *three hundred **and** forty-five* (*three hundred forty five* in American).
- 59,321 is *fifty nine thousand, three hundred **and** twenty one*. (not *fifty nine thousand and three hundred...*)

You can then describe large numbers with a series of different figures, grouping numbers in hundreds and tens, starting with the biggest number. So we describe hundreds/tens of millions, then thousands, then hundreds:

- 1,345,612 = one million, three hundred and forty five thousand, six hundred and twelve
- 153,200 = one hundred and fifty three thousand, two hundred

Hundreds and thousands

Often it is easier to describe four figure numbers in hundreds instead of thousands. This is perfectly acceptable. For example, 1500 might be described as *fifteen hundred*, instead of *one thousand five hundred* (or *one and a half thousand*), because it is simpler to say.

Alternative names for number groups

There are many informal alternative names for groups of numbers. For example, 12 = dozen, 24 = 2 dozen, 1,000 = grand or k

Practice reading these numbers out loud:

- 1 4,567
- 2 367
- 3 98,745
- 4 5,000
- 5 34,230
- 6 873,120
- 7 10,043
- 8 7,340,200
- 9 54,500
- 10 24

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of January 11th.	0:00
Newscast 1 <i>Alberta men ticketed more for distracted driving compared to women</i>	<p>Of the 27,417 distracted driving convictions in the last fiscal year, 65.5 per cent involved male drivers, according to data from Alberta Transportation. That works out to 11.1 convictions per 1,000 licensed male drivers compared to a rate of 6.5 for female drivers.</p> <p>Doug King, a justice studies professor at Mount Royal University who worked previously as a research analyst with the Calgary Police Service, says the numbers present an interesting "snapshot" but don't say that one gender has more of a tendency to drive while distracted than the other. Additional factors need to be considered such as "Does the average male driver in Alberta drive more than the average female driver?" said King.</p> <p>Krista Whelen, an instructor at Chinook Driving Academy in Calgary, said the curriculum heavily stresses the dangers of distracted driving and devotes more classroom time to that topic than impaired driving.</p> <p>While Alberta's legislation allows officers to ticket drivers for a wide variety of distractions, 98 per cent of convictions were for using a mobile phone or other type of electronic device while behind the wheel.</p>	0:10
Newscast 2 <i>TransCanada is filing lawsuit against the Obama administration</i>	<p>TransCanada has filed a lawsuit against the Obama administration and plans to file a claim under the North American Free Trade Agreement over the U.S. government's rejection of the company's proposed Keystone XL pipeline. The firm says it will be looking to recover 15 billion dollars US in costs and damages under NAFTA.</p> <p>The Alberta government issued a statement saying that this is a private sector decision made by TransCanada and one that the government will be watching closely.</p> <p>Legal authorities say this could go on for years before a decision is made. Opponents say the Calgary-based company is "throwing the corporate equivalent of a temper tantrum".</p>	1:42

<p>Newscast 3</p> <p>Increase in license plate theft</p>	<p>Calgary police are warning drivers to make sure they have their own plate on the back of their vehicles because of a recent spike in vehicle license plate thefts.</p> <p>Police say plate thefts have skyrocketed by more than 80 per cent in 2015 compared to 2014. Staff Sgt, Kristie Verheul says the jump in plate thefts is consistent with an increase in stolen vehicles.</p> <p>She says, "Often what will happen is offenders will steal a vehicle, or have a vehicle that they are going to steal in mind, and then go and steal a plethora of plates to go on it so they can keep swapping the plates in order to drive that vehicle longer. " Verheul is in charge of the economic crimes unit.</p>	<p>2:34</p>
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ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1:

ALBERTA MEN TICKETED MORE FOR DISTRACTED DRIVING COMPARED TO WOMEN

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Of the **27,417** distracted driving convictions in the last **fiscal** year, 65.5 per cent involved male drivers, according to data from Alberta Transportation. That works out to 11.1 **convictions** per 1,000 licensed male drivers compared to a rate of 6.5 for female drivers.

Doug King, a justice studies professor at Mount Royal University who worked **previously** as a research analyst with the Calgary Police Service, says the numbers present an interesting “**snapshot**” but don’t say that one gender has a **tendency** to drive while distracted than the other. Additional **factors** need to be considered such as “Does the average male driver in Alberta drive more than the average female driver?” said King.

Krista Whelen, an instructor at Chinook Driving Academy in Calgary, said the **curriculum** heavily stresses the dangers of **distracted** driving and devotes more classroom time to that topic than **impaired** driving.

While Alberta's legislation allows officers to ticket drivers for a wide variety of distractions, **98** per cent of convictions were for using a mobile phone or other type of electronic **device** while behind the wheel.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2:

TRANSCANADA IS FILING LAWSUIT AGAINST THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

WARM UP

The Keystone Pipeline Project is an oil pipeline system in Canada and the United States

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

TransCanada has filed a lawsuit **against** the Obama administration and plans to file a **claim** under the North American Free Trade Agreement over the U.S. government’s **rejection** of the company’s proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

The firm says it will be looking to **recover** \$15 billion US in costs and damages under NAFTA.

The Alberta government issued a statement saying that this is a **private** sector decision made by TransCanada and one that the government will be watching closely.

Legal authorities say this **could** go on for years before a decision is made. Opponents say the Calgary-based company is “throwing the corporate equivalent of a temper **tantrum**”.

POST ACTIVITY

Answers will vary

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3: INCREASE IN LICENSE PLATE THEFT

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

1. The criminals were lined up so that the witness could identify the offenders.
2. The artwork was picked. There were several stolen paintings.
3. There had been many burglaries in the neighbourhood. The neighbours were worried about all of the thefts.
4. He had committed two felonies before. This was his third offence.
5. He did pick pockets, but he did not ever steal credit cards.
6. The crook was seen taking the money, so the police were able to arrest the thief quickly.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 4

Calgary police are warning drivers to make sure they have their own plate on the back of their vehicles because of a recent spike in vehicle license plate thefts.

Police say plate thefts have skyrocketed by more than 80 per cent in 2015 compared to 2014. Staff Sergeant, Kristie Verheul says the jump in plate thefts is consistent with an increase in stolen vehicles.

She says, "Often what will happen is offenders will steal a vehicle, or have a vehicle that they are going to steal in mind, and then go and steal a plethora of plates to go on it so they can keep swapping the plates in order to drive that vehicle longer. " Verheul is in charge of the economic crimes unit.

ANSWER KEY FOR LANGUAGE FOCUS

Suggested Answers

- 1 4,567 – four thousand, five hundred and sixty-seven
- 2 342 – three hundred and forty-two
- 3 98,745 – ninety-eight thousand, seven hundred and forty-five
- 4 5,000 – five thousand, *or* five k, g or grand
- 5 34,230 – thirty four thousand, two hundred and thirty
- 6 873,120 – eight hundred and seventy three thousand, one hundred and twenty
- 7 10,043 – ten thousand and forty three
- 8 7,340,200 – seven million, three hundred and forty thousand, two hundred
- 9 5,500 – five thousand, five hundred *or* fifty-five hundred
- 10 24 – two dozen

If you have any questions, comments or feedback regarding this lesson plan, please do not hesitate to contact Communication4Integration by email at info@communication4integration.ca